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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Service in the 4th KBW Regiment, Rzeszow: Assignment/
Training/Control of Resistance/Political, Agricultural
Missions/Relations with the UB

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CP Membership

2.

the Zakłady Elektrotechniczne (Electrotechnical Factory), on
Ullica Gorzka, Krakow. This factory employed about 150 workers.
As everywhere, so here the PZPR (Polish United Workers'
Party - the CP) had its cell or primary organization. The Party cell at
factory was particularly interested in the youth. It organized meetings
with an amusement program, excursions in cars and lorries on Sundays and holi-
days.
This Party
cell also organized anti-religious lectures.

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[redacted] To prevent [redacted] simulating any diseases, they told stories about the easy and happy life in the army. [redacted] one of them said: 'Zyc nie umierac' - Life is fine in the army. One is on the post - and the other sleeps'. [redacted] many boys were impressed by these talks and cheered up.

4.

KBW Assignment

5.

"A booklet on the KBW states: 'The KBW is the armed arm of the Polish nation. It has to fight the remnants of reaction with arms in their hands, and guard the industry and the state agencies.' Actually, the foremost task of the KBW is to fight 'bandits' - whom the non-Communists call the 'patriots'. Members of the KBW receive, in addition to the normal army training, special training, to fight the partisans. This is why the KBW training camps are always in the forests.

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"Most of the KBW soldiers come from the new Polish territories in the West. It is probably thought that boys from there are rootless, as no strong traditions have been established among the varied people there. The authorities think probably that it would be easier to turn young people from those parts into obedient servants of Communism.

[redacted] Krakow is considered very reactionary.

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[redacted] thoroughly investigated [redacted] As soon as [redacted] conscription card, [redacted] asked various questions, including whether [redacted] relatives abroad. [redacted] An investigation was also carried out [redacted] place of work. Then the military authorities interrogated the bloc chief [redacted] on [redacted] behaviour. Neighbours were asked if [redacted] drank or was quarrelsome. [redacted] thoroughness of this investigation.

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"Compulsory military service in the KBW lasts 27 months. [redacted] sent first to a recruit training camp in a forest near Lublin. [redacted] lived in tents. The KBW is always trained in forests. After three months of training [redacted] sent to our regiment, which was the 4th KBW Regiment at Rzeszow.

4th KBW Regiment, Rzeszow

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"The KBW is subordinated to the Ministry of State Security. It has about 40,000 soldiers. The KBW Staff and the Special Brigade (Specbrygada) are in Warsaw. Each provincial capital has a KBW regiment. Olaszyn has an independent Battalion (batalion samodzielny). A KBW regiment has 2000 soldiers. Lt. Col. [redacted] Biberaki is a member of the KBW Staff in Warsaw.

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10. "In 1950 the commander of the 4th KBW Regiment, Rzeszow, was a Soviet - Major [fnu] Pliskin. He is now a Lieutenant-Colonel. His successor was Major [fnu] Kowalewski - probably a Soviet also, as he spoke Polish with a Russian accent. The chief political officer of the regiment was Lt. [fnu] Rzepka. The commander of the 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, was Lt. Jozef Pawelek, later replaced by Lt. [fnu] Krzyzanowski. The political officer of the 1st Battalion was [fnu] Czerniowski. The POF secretary (secretary of the PZPR organization) of the 1st Battalion was 2nd Lt. [fnu] Lopatka. Lt. [fnu] Jezierski was deputy commander of the 2nd battery in the 4th Regiment.

11. "There were about 90-100 soldiers in the 3rd Company or the 4th Regiment. The average age was 21, with the youngest soldiers being 19 and the oldest 23. About 15-20 were CP members.

12. "To avoid insubordination and opposition, the regime sees that officers and men do not remain in one unit too long. This is to prevent the growth of comradeship. Officers usually remain in a regiment only two years. Soldiers are shuffled from platoon to platoon and from company to company.

Training

13. "The training in the KBW is much harder than in the regular army. Many soldiers leave the KBW with poor health. Yet the State economises on the KBW. It gets uniforms and equipment of poorer quality than the regular army. It is not a Polish army. It is a sort of NKVD. Even the barracks have no inscription 'Polish Army' - simply 'KBW'.

14. "The KBW has Soviet-type arms, though the production of arms in Poland has increased considerably. Poland now produces antitank grenades (piasni przeciwpancerne) of the German type. [redacted] that Poland was to start production of a new type of CKM (heavy machine gun) of large caliber. [redacted] used prototypes of this CKM, weighing 120 kg. Poland also produces pistols of the Soviet 1943 model (zelazne, kolba skladana, waga 2.5 kg).

15. "The KBW soldiers learn to shoot well. Though it is forbidden to have ammunition when off the shooting range, most soldiers have some bullets in their pockets. During training with blind ammunition the soldiers sometimes purposely load their guns with sharp bullets. Casualties occur, and a hated superior may die. In 1951 or 1952 a soldier killed a lieutenant that way in Rzeszow. It was said to be an accident, but nobody knew what really happened. The soldier was put under arrest for several months.

Political Education

16. "Each KBW battalion and company has a political officer. Each battalion also has a POF secretary. The political officer of a company is also its deputy commander. He arranges political lectures and studies the political opinions of the soldiers. He has spies within the company. The POF secretary is supposed to hold two Party meetings a month.

17. "The political lectures of the politruk as well as Party meetings were generally hated by the soldiers, much more hated than the military training. Most soldiers at Rzeszow were youths of rather low intelligence who had to make great efforts to learn these political lessons by heart to reply to the questions of the politruk or the POF secretary. [redacted]

[redacted] Only a few agitators and some others, about 10-15 in all, could be regarded as active Communists. It often happened that somebody outside of the Party was devoted to the regime and served the politruk or UB as a spy; on the other hand, many CP members could in fact be against the regime. CP membership is not always an index of political behaviour in the KBW. The spies in the company have had not only to report on the political attitude of their comrades but also infringements of military discipline. Every CP member, too, was told to supervise all other CP members as well as the rest of the soldiers in military performance. They seemed to think that CP membership liberated them from their military obligations. Two thirds of the soldiers who joined the CP while in the army did it only to make life in the military service more comfortable.

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18. "At the regular CP meetings the behavior of the members was discussed. Reported cases of infringements of military discipline, drinking, etc. were discussed in public. The accused was obliged to explain publicly, in front of the other members, his behaviour and promise repentance. Then the culprit got a warning.
19. "Once a month battalion Party meetings were organized, attended by all CP members in the three companies of each battalion. These meetings took place in the messroom of the battalion. On these occasions a table in the messroom was covered with red cloth. The meeting was directed by the POP secretary, assisted by the battalion commander, some company commander and the politruk. The przodownicy szkoleniowi (Stashenovite soldiers) were usually honored by an invitation to the board. The meeting was always opened by the POP secretary. He read the agenda. After every lecture a discussion took place. Most time during the meeting was spent discussing the behaviour of various Party members. Lectures were also read on subjects of international policy, such as the wars in Korea and Indochina, the situation in the Philippines, the freedom movements of colonial nations. In such lectures the US was always depicted as the enemy No. 1. The fighting tactics of the US Army were discussed. Here, praise was rare. Once a year the battalions of the 4th MBW Regiment each had elections to the CP board. The meeting opened with a lecture on the merits of the CP leadership. Then the deputy battalion commander (the politruk) proposed some officer to the post of POP secretary for the battalion and each company. Before national or Communist holidays all soldiers were obliged to attend meetings. At these meetings topical lectures were read on the holiday, e.g. on Lenin's death, the Polish Army, the Day of the Red Army. At any time a company or battalion POP secretary could summon the CP members of his unit to a meeting.
20. "Each time before a company went to training camp or some job in the country, the CP members were called to a meeting. The POP secretary or politruk reminded them of CP and military discipline. In each platoon there was at least one Communist, who was made responsible for the discipline in the platoon: to see that the orders of the platoon commander were carried out properly and to report all offences committed by soldiers. Most of the CP members among the soldiers (those who were not Communists by conviction) soon discovered that it was best not to report anything at all. That way they did not make enemies among the soldiers and had less work. But too much passivity could bring trouble (gamatorstwo). If the Party got no reports at all from a platoon during a long period, it grew anxious about its political morale. The Party wants to know everything going on in a platoon, to be informed of the private life of every soldier. A platoon which remains a closed book for the Party will soon get new CP representatives.
21. "In each platoon there was also a Communist agitator who received leaflets from the company POP secretary to distribute among the soldiers. His assignment was to make propaganda for the ZMP and the CP. The idea is to recruit as many CP members as possible from among the soldiers. At the end of the military service, about 50% or even a little more belong to the CP. The leaflets explained to the soldiers in slogans the superiority of the Soviet state and the help the USSR was giving to Poland, the improved standard of living since World War II, the new industrial enterprises. They extolled the Chinese and Korean heroes who had died rather than let themselves be taken prisoners.
22. "The soldiers were surprised with lectures on political theory. Many of them, because of poor intelligence, had difficulties in following these lectures. Once a week there was the so-called political training (szkolenia polityczne programowe); twice a week there were lectures by the politruk; two hours daily the soldiers spent learning the 'script' (wlasna nauka wedlug knospektu). Three times per week there was seminar during which the soldiers were taught how to reply to political questions in an examination, such questions as: 'Tell how the Polish soldiers fought side by side with the Soviets. Tell how the Soviet soldiers in action divided their bread with the Polish soldiers.'

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23. The KBW Special Brigade in Warsaw sends the programs for political training and all the scripts and pamphlets to every regiment. The regiment distributes them among the battalions, battalions to the companies, companies to the platoons. At Rzeszow there were six political lectures per week plus 10 minutes per day of newspaper reading (prasowka).

24. "Teaching the soldiers so much politics, can have a double-edge result. The soldiers get clever and try to use politics to turn the lesson learned against the Communists themselves. Most of the KBW soldiers are sons of the agricultural proletariat or smallholders (farms under six hectares). In the beginning these boys represent an 'unenlightened' element. But they learn something and get their own ideas at the end, often with quite different results from those expected by their Communist teachers.

NCO School

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The best company commanders are selected to attend the N.C.P. school of the regiment. [redacted] the commander of the school was Lieutenant /Fry/ Zlotnik. He was later transferred to the KBW staff in Warsaw. One hundred and 20 soldiers attend the school at a time. About 80 finish as corporals, about 20 as starczy strzelec; the rest are dropped and sent back to their companies. The discipline was stricter at a N.C.O. school, and the students had to work harder than soldiers in the regular companies. There was much more training, instruction in military tactics and the special tactics used for fighting the partisans (imagined pursuit of partisans, ambush, convoy, guard of state property, fight with a band, how to extricate oneself from an ambush, etc.). An important branch of training was the so-called rozpoznanie. In this the soldiers were taught how to spy upon the population, how to question them for information. They were taught to pay much attention to children, to make friends with them, give them sweets and then ask: 'What is your daddy doing? Are you getting visitors? Is somebody spending the night at your home?' The soldiers were also taught to keep close contact with Party leaders and active Communists, with the militia and ORMO - to support and cooperate with these organizations. The ORMO (Voluntary Reserve of the Citizens' Militia) consists of the worst youngsters in a village. Usually they operate also as UB informants. The NCO school had less free hours than the rest of the KBW soldiers. When other companies went to the cinema in a closed formation, the school usually had some training to do.

Leave

26. "During their 27 months of service the KBW soldiers do not get any leave as a rule. However, to stimulate a soldier to better service, he is individually promised leave for especially good training or work on duty. Thus, the Communist propagandists in the KBW do get leave nearly every month. [redacted]

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[redacted] special events, such as death or marriage in the family, may also constitute a valid reason for leave. Older company commanders voluntarily submit the names of their soldiers for leave, trying to arrange at least one leave for every soldier as this would maintain training morale. However, the regimental staff usually rejects the proposals of the company commanders, being convinced that during holidays at home the soldiers are 'under the influence of hostile propaganda'.

Health

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[redacted] the soldiers had miserable shoes with holes in their soles; some shoes had no soles at all. Most soldiers caught cold as a result. When the regimental commander arrived for an inspection, he saw the poor state of the equipment of his soldiers and made an issue of it. The soldiers got better shoes. This was in [redacted]

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28. From time to time soldiers committed suicide. Others injured themselves in order to get exempted from service. [redacted] there were two cases of self-inflicted wounds in 4th KBW Regiment. In one case the soldier was to remain an invalid all his life. He was not punished. The other soldier drove a needle into his knee. This was discovered by an X-ray examination, and he got 1.5 years of imprisonment. There were several other cases which were regarded as accidents pure and simple. But you never know.
- 25X1 29. [redacted] there were few desertions from the KBW. There was one in the recruit camp [redacted] The soldier was caught and transferred to another regiment. Officially he got one year of prison as a warning to the rest of us, [redacted] actually the boy landed in another regiment after the period of arrest. Also [redacted] an 'old' soldier, who was already near the end of his military service, had a nervous breakdown and ran away. He was caught and sentenced to three years. Actually that would mean 1.5-two years in prison, depending on his behaviour. In all such cases the trial is public. It is a show for the entire regiment or camp. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] There were 3,000 recruits from two regiments. The trial took place on a meadow in the forest. On a sort of platform were the prosecutor, the counsel for the defendant, the judge - all in civilian clothes. The soldier explained that he had been persecuted by his commander. Once when he went to town without permit, he was told by the commander that he would be killed. He had got a shock and run away. The counsel said that the boy was young and inexperienced. The prosecutor did not want to admit any extenuating circumstances. The boy got three years. Usually after such a public trial a second, real trial is held by military judges and the culprits get less severe punishments. [redacted] the soldier's real punishment was two years.
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- KBW Control of Resistance
30. The main task of the 4th KBW Regiment was to fight armed patriots and remnants of the Ukrainian UPA groups who were also active in the Rzeszow voievodship. All these resistance groups consist of very few members only; they usually operate in groups of two men. They hide in the forests. KBW soldiers are used in action against partisans after they have had a year's service and training.
- 25X1 31. [redacted] a peasant was arrested in the province of Rzeszow, village of Lezajsk, district of Jaroslawa. He was accused of being a member of an underground organization. This was a typical case of how actions were carried out. The UB official from Lezajsk called upon the staff of the 4th Regiment. He reported the man and asked for the help of the KBW to arrest him. The UB official was then given a platoon. Headed by the platoon commander, the platoon started at night for Lezajsk. It marched towards the peasant's home, guided by the UB man. The KBW soldiers surrounded the building. At daybreak (arrests are always carried out in the early morning) the UB man entered the house in company of the platoon commander. The peasant was put in a lorry and driven to prison, escorted by armed soldiers. No reprisals were taken against his family, but the peasant has not been seen since.
- 25X1 32. [redacted] the KBW got orders to find three parachutists in the district of Lubaczow. The men were armed with Sten guns and had a radio station. They were discovered when some shepherd boys discovered hidden parts of a radio station and reported to the village authorities; the latter informed the police who understood that it was parachutists. The UB and KBW were informed. Two KBW regiments were engaged in the round-up - the Rzeszow and Lublin KBW. For a month all the forests, villages and private farms were carefully searched. The task of one regiment was to surround the entire district and that of the other to search it. However, the parachutists were not discovered and the regiments, with the exception of two battalions, were sent home. Later, when a patrol passed a forest, the patriots awakened in their hide-out, thought they were surrounded and started to shoot. Both battalions surrounded the forest meadow. The three patriots defended themselves from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They even had hand grenades. 'Communists, let us go!' shouted the men. The company and platoon commanders asked the KBW soldiers to take the men by storm which the oldiers refused to do. Finally one of the men [redacted] when his hand grenade was hit by a bullet as he was about to throw it. Finally all the three men were killed. No KBW men were killed.

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25X1 33. [] a special company of the 4th KBW Regiment made raids after arms in the villages of the Rzeszow province. They searched the houses, the sheds, under the floors, etc. The raids caused great excitement and rebellious feeling among the peasants. Some peasants abused the soldiers and were arrested. About 20 guns were found in this action. Their owners were arrested and sentenced to imprisonment; the mildest punishment was six years. Some platoons carried out the search with exactitude; others were careless, depending on their morals.

25X1 34. [] three patriots (two men and one woman) were hunted in the district of Debica. This group had met a staff officer and tried to disarm him. He had succeeded in escaping and alarmed the regiment. The patriots were found and a fight ensued. Four soldiers were killed and eight wounded. Finally the patriots were captured. The woman was pregnant and got 1.5 years; the men got two years each. The sentence was so mild because their resistance was considered a regular fight. But the result of this mild sentence was an accusation against the Rzeszow military prosecuting agency. It was said that the prosecutor himself was in the service of the resistance. The prosecutor was removed from his post in Rzeszow and later probably arrested.

Operation Narew

25X1 35. [] a large raid was carried out in the forests of the Bialystok province. This was a common action of all the KBW regiments to clean up the forests. Each regiment had to send an expeditionary battalion to Bialystok. As the KBW has 15 regiments, 14 expeditionary battalions participated in this, probably the greatest raid of its kind since World War II. The raid was officially called 'Operation Narew' (after a river in Poland). Officially the assignment was 'to strengthen the people's regime in the province of Bialystok' (ugruntowac wladze ludowa w wojewodztwie Bialostockim). Before the soldiers left for Bialystok the battalion politruks arranged meetings in each battalion. They explained that the people's regime was fighting great difficulties in the Bialystok province; the people there did not pay any taxes; armed 'bands' were operating; hostile elements (wrota elementy) were liquidating loyal and active Communists.

36. "The soldiers chosen for each expeditionary battalion were divided into companies, the companies into platoons. Each village in the Bialystok province got a platoon; large villages got a company. The staffs were stationed in the district towns, the general staff in the town of Bialystok. Using special plans and maps drawn up in advance, the platoons and companies searched carefully the forests, villages, all houses - przetrasnac, -as the KBW soldiers say. The patriots did not know where to hide. They ran from district to district, and their situation grew more and more hopeless. The KBW organized ambushes. Shootings were frequent. Sometimes completely innocent people got killed. The soldiers met somebody in the forest; that person did not hear the order to stop or panicked and ran away, or else the soldiers got into a state of panic and started shooting at something moving in the darkness. In one barn the Deska group, consisting of six men, was discovered. As they refused to surrender, all were killed. In one village some patriots were discovered and killed. The UB chief for the district of Kolno, where this happened, ordered the bodies to be thrown on the road as a warning to the local people.

37. "About some resistance group leaders legends were circulating. They were regarded as extremely clever, of fabulous gallantry and in possession of some miraculous power which made them safe from bullets. In order to destroy such glorification and to prove to the people that patriots could escape his fate - death - the KBW started to put the bodies of dead patriots on roads or in villages, where they could be seen by everybody.

25X1 38. [] just before the end of the action, all peasants who were suspected of helping the partisans, were arrested. Altogether about 40 partisans were killed. The KBW estimated that altogether about 100 people

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belonged to the various small resistance groups operating in the Bialystok province. The existence of a few such groups in a district or province had great influence, quite out of proportion with the small number of the active group. Their mere presence paralyzed the activity of the militia and increased the passive resistance of the population. A militiaman or UB functionary felt insecure, with the result that he did not interfere too much with the affairs of the population. [redacted] rumours, [redacted] that before the large-scale KBW Bialystok operation, some UB men and active Communists, who had harmed the population with their activities, had been liquidated.

39. "Some KBW soldiers, who were present at UB investigation of the arrested farmers during the Bialystok raid reported that old, well-proved methods had been used as well as new ones of terror and torture. The old methods included interrogations lasting 24 hours without a break. The culprits were alternately tempted with vodka and cigarettes and threatened by shouts or with torture. The new methods included starvation for several days; then a meal of salt herring but no water, in an overheated cell. The victim had to stand with his face towards the wall for hours. Mechanisms specially constructed to inflict torture were used, e.g. tools driving needles under fingernails. The UB had special experts who interrogated people by applying every method imaginable, including torture. As a matter of fact, those who proved brave and endured torture were better treated at the last. When the torture had no results, the UB gave it up.
40. "The peasants suffered greatly from the Bialystok raid. They were never safe from sudden raids. Their houses and property were searched and turned topsy-turvy in a most ruthless manner. Documents of all passengers and passers-by in the streets and on the roads were inspected. The entire district was like a besieged country during war. The population was scared and started to panic. If somebody protested and tried to prevent the soldiers from searching his house, he was arrested immediately.
41. "The commander of Operation Narew was Lt. Col. Pliski, former commander of the 4th KBW Regiment in Rzeszow. At that time he was already regimental commander of the 2nd Bialystok Regiment.
42. "The Bialystok action was not popular among the majority of the soldiers. Despite the fact that the best and most reliable soldiers were selected for the task, they behaved insubordinately at every opportunity. Conflicts with the UB were frequent.

The Specbrygada

43. "Some soldiers from the Specbrygada received decorations after the Bialystok province. No officer remains in the Specbrygada longer than three years. The government would lose its trust in the Specbrygada if the officers remained long in one place and were able to form close relationships among themselves. Soldiers of the regular service remain in the Specbrygada for one year only. They are chosen from the various KBW regiments after recruit training. After a year of service in the Specbrygada they are sent back to their regiments.

Agricultural Mission

44. "The KBW participated also in a 'harvest action' (akcja zbozowa) [year not indicated] in districts which lagged most in the fulfilment of delivery plans. The action was as follows: a village got a KBW platoon stationed there with orders just to stay there. The men were billeted in private houses and carried on their normal life and training just as in the barracks. The villagers had no idea why the platoon had arrived. They discussed the presence of the soldiers, searched for reasons, grew nervous. Everybody has

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something to be nervous about. The result was as expected. The farmers got frightened and started working and delivering better than before. At the same time the UB and Party officials could move about more freely, without fear of reprisals from active anti-Communists. But the presence of a KBW unit turns an entire village against the soldiers. They are boycotted by everybody in the village. They are regarded as enemies, as foreign occupants.

45. The pace of creating kolkhozes in the Rzeszow voievodship is extremely slow. The farmers are forced to join the collective farms through ruinous taxes and large delivery quotas. The constant increase of delivery quotas for the kulaks reduces them to a state in which they are unable to execute their obligations. During the KBW's akcja zboza many kulaks were arrested. The same happened in the Bialystok voievodship; in some villages most of the farmers were arrested and only women remained at home. The women were unable to carry on the farm work, and the farms were finally taken over by the kolkhozes. In order to stop the kulaks 'bad influence' on other kolkhoz members, the kulaks are not admitted to the collective farms. They have to leave their villages, to look for work in the towns. In some cases farms lie fallow as there are no people who will agree to establish a kolkhoz. [REDACTED] two villages in the Bialystok voievodship where most of the farmers had been arrested and women left alone: Rydzewo Szlacheckie and Rydzewo Wloscianskie. The fields lay fallow.

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46. Sometimes a KBW platoon acted carelessly on purpose, so that a person about to be arrested had time to escape. [REDACTED] sent to arrest a peasant in a village near Lezajsk. [REDACTED] close all outlets from the farm but did this so carelessly that the sister of the peasant discovered the soldiers and warned her brother who escaped. During the Bialystok raid a platoon was accused of having allowed some patriots to slip through. Military intelligence officers from Warsaw (the Informacja) arrived on the spot to investigate. A soldier was sentenced to seven months of imprisonment as a result.

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Political Mission

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47. The KBW was used during the electoral campaign [REDACTED] KBW platoons were sent to various villages. [REDACTED] Lezajsk, province of Rzeszow. [REDACTED] the 'band' of a certain 'Ciesla' was operating in the neighborhood of that village. The presence of the soldiers makes it possible for Communist agitators and village officials to act with more confidence. Each time a political agitation meeting took place somewhere, the platoon was sent to reinforce the militia section (posterunek milicji) in giving protection to the agitators and Party leaders of the district. Otherwise the Communist officials would have been afraid to put their noses into the village and make propaganda there. During the elections the KBW had to guard the electoral committees.

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48. KBW soldiers had also the task of persuading the peasants to vote 'publicly', in other words, not to put their voting papers into the envelope behind the curtain. If somebody did so he was already suspected of having voted against the regime.

Religious Mission

49. The KBW has of course no priests. The soldiers are told officially not to go to church. Sometimes some soldiers went to church secretly at Rzeszow. Anti-religious propaganda weighed large in the political lessons. During the action in the Bialystok province, even the churches were raided, despite protests from the priests. Some soldiers who wanted to please the Communist bosses, addressed the priests with 'Ty' and 'Wy' or 'Pan', instead of using the reverent form. Officially the KBW soldiers ought to carry out actions against churches only on special orders. The priests knew this. But some platoons, in order to demonstrate their zeal, did so without any permit, knowing in advance that they would not be punished. Other platoons purposely omitted churches. All depends on the spirit of the platoon and the comradeship between the platoon commander and his soldiers.

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Relations with the UB

50. "Although the KBW has somewhat the same task as the UB, there is no fraternization between them. Those KBW soldiers who are not active Communists hate the UB as much as does the general population. The Rzeszow Regiment often had conflicts with the local UB - fights between soldiers and UB functionaries in restaurants etc. The regiment often got complaints from the UB about the behaviour of its soldiers. That the morale was not the best at Bialystok, was proved by the fact that after the raid various regiments had to dissolve some companies and reorganize them anew. The 4th KBW Regiment of Rzeszow also had proof of insubordination. Older soldiers (e.g., those who had already two years of service behind them) refused to go to gymnastics. It was also nearly impossible to organize a call-up (zbiorka) for lunch.

- 25X1 51. [redacted] some soldiers of the 4th KBW Regiment met a UB official at a village dance in Jawidze, district of Lublin. This man was hated by everybody in his village, as he terrorised the peasants. The KBW soldiers started a quarrel with him. It developed into a fight, and the UB man beaten so thoroughly that he died after a week in hospital. The KBW patrol which arrived at the place of the fight did not report who was responsible for the beating, pretending that it had not got no evidence. The result was that all the soldiers present at the dance were punished with only 10-15 days of arrest for having left the barracks without a special permit on a Sunday. There are some KBW soldiers who take every opportunity that offers to beat UB men.

52. "It is wrong, however, to consider all UB chiefs as pure Communists. Some of them actually collaborate with the patriots and work secretly against the Communists. This was true, of the local UB chief of the Jaroslaw district. I heard that he punished UB functionaries and KBW soldiers heavily for the smallest offences though it was impossible to liquidate the 'bands' in the district. They were always warned in time. The authorities concluded that the bands had some collaborators within the local administration. Finally the UB chief was arrested. [redacted]

25X1

53. "The UB has at least one secret agent among the officials of every commune (gmina). Within the UB these agents are called trzeci referent. They are chosen from among the workers of the commune and have to apply for the job in writing. During the harvest action [redacted] at Jaroslaw and billeted in the building of the local militia, [redacted] candidates were appointed. They got the regulations to read and then signed their 'obligation'.

25X1

25X1

Relations with the Local People

54. "KBW soldiers are hated by the population. They are regarded as outcasts and cut off from every personal contact. No girl wants to dance with a KBW soldier. It is dangerous for a KBW man to walk about alone at night as he may get a thrashing from the town or village boys. The attitude of the population towards the regular army is completely different; it is not hated at all.
55. "The KBW is probably hated most in Rzeszow province. People remember well the reprisals the KBW took against the villages just after World War II. Fighting Polish partisans and UPA soldiers, the KBW burnt down all villages where hidden arms were discovered. Armoured tanks and cars destroyed village houses by simply driving through them. This was the case with some villages near Lancut. Among the villages burned down was Cieplice in the Jaroslaw district. Of the 400 odd houses in that village, only 50 remained. The fields lie fallow to this day. Nobody wants to carry on. As soon as they started to cultivate the fields again, a kolkhoz would be established and nobody wants that.

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]

- 11 -

56. "Not only peasants but also urban workers in the Rzeszow province hate the KBW soldiers. KBW officers and professional NCO's are prohibited to marry without permission from the KBW corps staff, which has to investigate the reliability of the woman. If she is the daughter of a peasant, permission is usually given but never when the family has 10 or more hectares of land. Lieutenant /Inu/ Stachura from the 4th KBW Regiment married in secret the daughter of a peasant who had 10 ha. He had a religious as well as a civil wedding. This came out. He had to give an account of his act at a Party meeting. The Party is always the first instance. It is a rule that no member of the CP may be sentenced by a court of law. He must first be kicked out of the Party if the offence is of such nature that imprisonment might be the result. After that the ordinary court takes care of the case. When Stachura appeared before the Party he was asked why he had married the woman without permission. He said the girl was with child from him, that he loved her but knew that he would never get permission to marry her because she was the daughter of a kulak. He got a warning from the Party and then was put on trial by the ordinary court, where he got some disciplinary punishment. As a result of this trouble he started to drink and one year later, 1952, he was expelled first from the Party and later from KBW. The sports instructor of the regiment started a liaison with a woman of good pre-World War II family. He got a warning. A third officer lost his gun, and being afraid to tell it to the regiment, bought a new one. This ended with some disciplinary punishment. All these officers were first tried by the Party.

25X1 [REDACTED]

57. Soviets in Rzeszow Province

57. "In the Rzeszow province there are no Soviet military bases or units, but there are some Soviet communications troops (oddzialy łącznosc) dealing with the repairs of telephone lines, etc."

25X1 [REDACTED]

58. "A Soviet staff is billeted in Krakow near Wawel Castle."

25X1

59. "When [REDACTED] an exchange of some frontier sections took place between Poland and the USSR, the inhabitants did not want to leave their homes in the Lublin province and settle down at the frontier of the Rzeszow province ceded to Poland by the Soviets. KBW soldiers had to take the people by force, put them on lorries and trains and transport them to their new homes. The 4th KBW Regiment participated in guarding the houses left by the Soviets, in return for those taken in the Lublin province. When the transferred people arrived at their new homes our regiment welcomed them with music. But the people did not want to leave the wagons or take possession of their new homes. They only wept. All soldiers felt terribly ashamed but were forced to carry out their orders. When the people were taken away by force, they left all they had behind them, even the cattle. Upon leaving, the people told the soldiers with hate in their voices: 'You have taken so much already, take the rest too.'"

60. "Along the Polish-Soviet frontier there is a frontier belt about one kilometer wide. Every morning this belt is ploughed in order that escapees will leave tracks on the ground. For a breadth of several kilometers along the entire frontier the villages are empty. On the Oder frontier there are no such precautions."

- end -

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED]